

December 15, 2005

Ms. Sunne Wright McPeak
Secretary
CA Business Transportation & Housing Agency.
980 Ninth Street Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814 2742

Dr. Alan C. Lloyd
Secretary
CA Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814 2828

Dear Secretaries McPeak and Lloyd:

As a Board Member of the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and Convenor for the Transportation Work Group, I respectfully request you consider in your deliberations the action taken by the Valley Partnership on December 9, 2005 when they unanimously voted to adopt the Business Plan and to recommend a State investment of \$6 billion in Route 99 over the next ten years.

The Work Group also discussed two current efforts underway at the State level, "GO California" and the "Goods Movement Action Plan." Both of these efforts are designed to increase California's capacity and competitive edge through transportation strategies. It was noted while these efforts will have a significant impact on the San Joaquin Valley, there has been little to no participation by the region in these discussions. The Work Group acknowledged decisions made regarding goods movement in the State have a significant impact on the San Joaquin Valley in regards to quality of life issues such as air quality, congestion, safety, etc. There was also a recognition that coordinated planning results in better outcomes.

The Work Group therefore made a formal request that the Partnership take whatever action is necessary to assure the San Joaquin Valley has sufficient representation at the table during these discussions, and any other efforts that may develop, so as to represent the region's needs, concerns, and opportunities and to give the region a standing equal to those currently represented at the table. The Work Group also acknowledged the importance of funding the necessary improvements to this "Port to Border" corridor and "Major Trade Highway Route" to prepare it for the increase in truck traffic anticipated through economic growth and efforts such as the Goods Movement Action Plan.

I am therefore requesting relevant portions of the Highway 99 Business Plan be integrated into the Goods Movement Action Plan prior to being submitted to the Governor.

The Work Group would like you to consider the following in determining your support for the request:

- There has been a historical underinvestment in the corridor as compared to other major CA corridors
- Significant safety issues exist along the corridor especially the at-grade intersections where traffic can enter, exit, or cross the highway without the benefit of a freeway interchange.
- Highway 99 is the only corridor in CA where nine urbanized centers are not connected by freeway.
- The corridor is the backbone of transportation for the San Joaquin Valley, an area exhibiting the highest population growth in the state.
- The highway is the economic lifeline of a region which according to the Congressional Research Report exhibits unemployment and poverty rates higher than Appalachia.
- As one of four "Port to Border" regional corridors and as a "Major International Trade Highway Route" the corridor experiences three times the state average in truck traffic with an expected growth rate of 60% over the next twenty years. This has been and will continue to be exacerbated because of substantial investments in CA ports resulting in a significant increase in truck traffic on the 99 Corridor without commensurate investments to handle the increase.
- As the world's premier agricultural production area, real time delivery of the Valley's annual \$14 billion agricultural products are dependent upon this corridor.

The Work Group wishes to bring to your attention the implementation cost for the projects within the Business Plan is approximately \$6 billion dollars in today's dollars. Based on current trends, costs are anticipated to significantly and rapidly increase over time. The Business Plan identifies major improvements, not all improvements. The Business Plan does not identify improvements that may be needed because of new development within the region. For these reasons, in addition to the requested \$6 billion in State investment in the corridor, the region recognizes there will be a significant gap in funding which will require local and regional commitment in order to complete necessary improvements to the corridor.

The Transportation Work Group of the Partnership would like to commend you for your work and your focus on goods movement within California. We recognize the significant contribution this makes to the California's economy and therefore to California residents. We believe, by integrating improvements in the 99 Corridor into the plan, you will be able to develop a comprehensive approach to increasing goods movement capacity within the State.

Thank you for your time and consideration. The Transportation Work Group looks forward to working with you in the future and to your recommendations and final product.

